

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 22, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11 have been amended in response to the Examiner's rejections. Support for all amended claims can be found in the specification, and no new matter has been added by these amendments. Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the above-identified application. Reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time on November 21, 2006 to discuss the proposed claim amendments and clarification of certain differences between the proposed claims and the cited prior art references.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,397,292 issued to *Venkatesh* in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0133634A1 to *Luke*. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1-3 and 9-11, as amended, are novel and patentable over *Venkatesh* and *Luke* because the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the elements in claims 1-3 and 9-11.

Venkatesh discloses a data processing system including a storage controller having two channel adapters 41-42, two disk adapters 43-44, and a shared memory 47 (see Fig. 1). As shown in the flowchart of programming of the storage controller for accessing the disk arrays in Fig. 9, write data or read data is stored in the shared memory 47. The Office Action states that *Luke* teaches a system with NAS which supports NFS and TCP/IP, and the use of a virtual service so that there is no need to reconfigure clients when services change and assign virtual IP addresses.

Neither *Venkatesh*, *Luke*, nor any combination thereof disclose or suggest a management table for storing synchronization type information and synchronization method

information which are based on the type of data processed by channel control portions. The cited references also do not teach or suggest that the channel control portions are clustered into a plurality of groups associated with fail-over thereby making it possible to send updated inherited data including an IP address to be inherited to channel control portions within the same group. They further fail to teach or suggest that the management table is referenced based on the type of data processed by a predecessor channel portion such that a successor channel control portion belonging to the same group as the predecessor control portion takes over the IP address of the predecessor control portion to receive data previously received by the predecessor channel control portion prior to failure thereof.

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1-3 and 9-11, and dependent claims 4-8 and 12-16, are novel and patentable over *Venkatesh* and *Luke*.

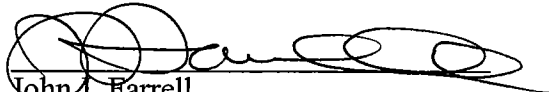
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (206) 467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

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